

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated July 20, 2007, claims 1, 17 and 26 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-32 and 35-43 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-32 and 35-43 have rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludwig et al. (UK Patent Application GB 2282506).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner maintains, beginning at the second line from the bottom on page 2 of the Office Action, that Ludwig et al. discloses:

...said first information object including a position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device; the data conferencing component of the above-described system supports the sharing of visual information at one or more CMWs. This encompasses both "snapshot sharing" (sharing "snapshots" of complete or partial screens, or of one or more selected windows" and "application sharing" (sharing both the control and display of running applications). When transferring images, lossless or slightly lossy image compression can be used to reduce network bandwidth requirements and user-perceived delay while maintaining high image quality. (page 12-13) and sums are decomposed and formed in a distributed fashion, creating partial sums at one site which are completed at other sites by appropriate signal insertion. According, audio mixing circuitry 38 is able to provide one or more additional sums, such as indicated by output 38, for sending to other sites having conference participants. (Page 18)

Frankly, Applicant cannot understand the relationship that the Examiner is trying to establish between the above description and the position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device, and which pattern is included in the first

information object. In this regard, Applicant notes that in the previous Office Action, dated January 18, 2007, the Examiner admitted that:

Ludwig do not explicitly teach first information object including a position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device... (see page 5, lines 3-4 of the Office Action dated January 18, 2007)

This is a voluntary admission of the Examiner, on this record, that an important feature (first information object including a position-coding pattern) of the independent claims is not disclosed in Ludwig et al. No clear explanation has been presented on this record as to why the Examiner now believes that his previous interpretation of Ludwig et al. is incorrect. However, the requirement that the record be complete requires that the Examiner provide a full explanation as to why he previously maintained that Ludwig et al. did not disclose a position-coding pattern in the first information.

Returning to the above-quoted language of the Office Action regarding the first information object including a position-coding pattern, Applicant sees no nexus between the Examiner's above-noted explanation and what is actually recited in the claims. More specifically, the Examiner has not clearly explained what relation the data conferencing component of Ludwig et al. and its supporting the sharing of visual information at one or more CMWs has to do with a position-coding pattern that has sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device and which pattern is included in the first information object.

As disclosed in the present application, a purpose of the position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device is to enable a user of the claimed method to send messages with a drawing device by moving the drawing device over the position-coding pattern. When this is done by a user, the position information obtained from the position-

coding pattern is used to provide a graphical image that is **NOT** in text format and which is formed by the movement of the drawing device over the position-coding pattern. This graphical image, which is not in text format, can be used to provide message data to other users of the electronic information service. For example, a user can move the drawing device over the position-coding pattern to form a message. This message would be a graphical image that is not in text format and would provide a simpler manner of communicating the message than via text format.

Applicant wishes to point out that the Examiner previous understanding of Ludwig et al. with regard to a position-coding pattern was correct. That is, Ludwig et al. has no disclosure or suggestion of including in the first information object a position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device.

At any rate, in order to further distinguish over Ludwig et al. and to expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*:

...said first information object including a position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device ***when the drawing device is moved over the position-coding pattern;***

...

wherein

the position information obtained from the position-coding pattern is used to provide a graphical image that is not in text format and which is created by moving the drawing device over the position-coding pattern.

Independent claims 17 and 26 have been amended to recite similar subject matter.

Ludwig et al. has no disclosure of suggestion of a position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device when the drawing device is moved over the position-coding pattern, nor that the position information obtained from the position-

coding pattern is used to provide a graphical image that is not in text format and which is created by moving the drawing device over the position-coding pattern. Therefore, amended claims 1, 17 and 26, as well as claims 4-16, 18-25, 27-32 and 35-43, are patentable over Ludwig et al. and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

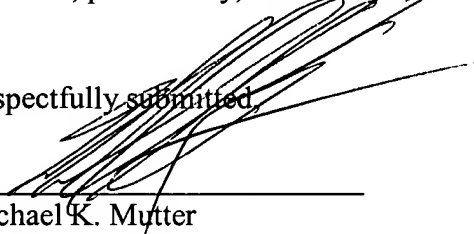
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees

Dated: November 19, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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